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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Merseburg AirfieldEVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATED 12 November 1953REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - one sketchREMARKS

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Merseburg airfield between 1953:

No air activity was observed at the field during the daytime or at night. At about 7 a.m., four alert aircraft were parked at the field.

There was no air activity as on the preceding day. The sky was 5/10 overcast. The alert aircraft were again observed at the field. At about 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., single-engine low-wing monoplanes crossed over the field.

At 10:45 a.m., eight MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks took off in elements of twos, maintaining a distance of about 40 meters between the two aircraft. The aircraft assembled in two formations of fours, headed west, and once again crossed over the field in a northeasterly direction. The two formations flew aft of each other instead of side by side. The formation returned to the field at 11:23 a.m. and landed between 11:25 a.m. and 11:27 a.m. Another take-off was made by eight MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks at 1:15 a.m. The aircraft also assembled in formation and headed east, returned from the east at about 2:25 p.m., and landed between 2:26 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Additional air activity was observed in the afternoon. At about 5:10 p.m., eight MiG-15s were parked at the dispersal area of the alert flight.

Six jet fighters were observed aloft and at 3:35 p.m. two formations were seen over the field. The aircraft landed between 3:40 p.m. and 3:47 p.m. There were a total of about 30 aircraft

Some two-seater aircraft were also identified. One MiG-15 had a red rudder assembly. At about 4:35 p.m., three MiG-15s successively took off and headed east. Their landings were not observed.

At about 11 a.m., a formation of MiG-15s was observed aloft in the vicinity of Merseburg.

2. The following observations were made at the field between 23 September and 10 October:

Between noon and 4 p.m., individual swept-back jet fighters made local flights. There was closed ceiling.

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25X1 [redacted] Between noon and 4:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters including [redacted] made flights in formations of twos and fives. 25X1

25X1 [redacted] Between 11 a.m. and 3:50 p.m., individual flights were made. There was closed ceiling at an altitude of about 1,000 meters.

25X1 [redacted] No air activity was observed although visibility was good and there were no clouds. About 30 MIG-15s or U-MIG-15s were counted on the landing field.¹

25X1 [redacted] Swept-back jet fighters arrived at the field.² When seen in the direction of flight, the aircraft had a barrel, about 75 cm long and with an estimated caliber of 30 mm, at the right side underneath the nose compartment and another barrel, about 40 cm long and with a smaller caliber, at the left side. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] No air activity was observed. There was a closed ceiling at an altitude of 800 meters and visibility range of about 3 km. 25X1

25X1 [redacted] Between 8:20 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., aircraft practiced flying in formations of fours. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] Between 8:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m., flying was practiced in formations of eight aircraft, [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] During the morning, flying was practiced in formations of twos, fours and eights. There were no clouds.

25X1 [redacted] Between 1:10 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., two swept-back jet fighters made a short flight while the weather was cloudless.

25X1 [redacted] No air activity was conducted. The sky was cloudless.

25X1 [redacted] No swept-back jet fighters were observed aloft, but a few flights were made by Po-2s. There was a closed ceiling and intermittent rain.

25X1 [redacted] A Li-2 landed at 2 p.m. and again took off at 5 p.m.¹

25X1 [redacted] At noon, 12 single-engine aircraft landed at the field. The aircraft were of the same type as the aircraft which had been observed landing at Schkeu-Ditz airfield.

25X1 3. Every evening on [redacted] trucks hauled personnel to the field. An estimated total of about 500 men wearing black-bordered blue epaulets arrived. Beginning on 24 September, the Soviets at the field were restricted to quarters and the guard personnel were reinforced and equipped with submachine guns.²

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4. The Kniferest-type radar set, previously located on the northern edge of the field, was not observed on [redacted] Another radio installation with a mast, about 25 meters high, was being established on the field, about 30 meters from the road to Lauchstaedt. [redacted] sketch of this installation.

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5. [redacted]

1. [redacted] Comment. Merseburg airfield is occupied by a fighter division headquarters and fighter regiment with 30 to 35 MiG-15s.

2. [redacted] Comment. On 27 September 1953, about 35 MiG-15s probably of the regiment at Altenburg airfield landed at Merseburg airfield. The aircraft participated in exercises held by the Third Shock Army in the area south of Stendal. [redacted]

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[redacted] The aircraft which landed on [redacted] probably belong to a regiment of the ground attack division in Alt Loennowitz; they were involved in exercises held by the Eighth Gds Army. The personnel who arrived on trucks between [redacted] probably belong to the OATBs of the units from other airfields which landed at Merseburg.

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3. [redacted] Comment. A new Kniferest-type radar set was reported from Merseburg airfield for the first time on [redacted] 1953. Its establishment was believed to be connected with the fighter unit which arrived on [redacted] 1953. The set was probably removed after the departure of the unit. Three radar sets, one each of Dumbo-type, Kniferest-type and Token-type, are believed to be now stationed at the field. For radio set observed at road to Lauchstaedt, see Annex.

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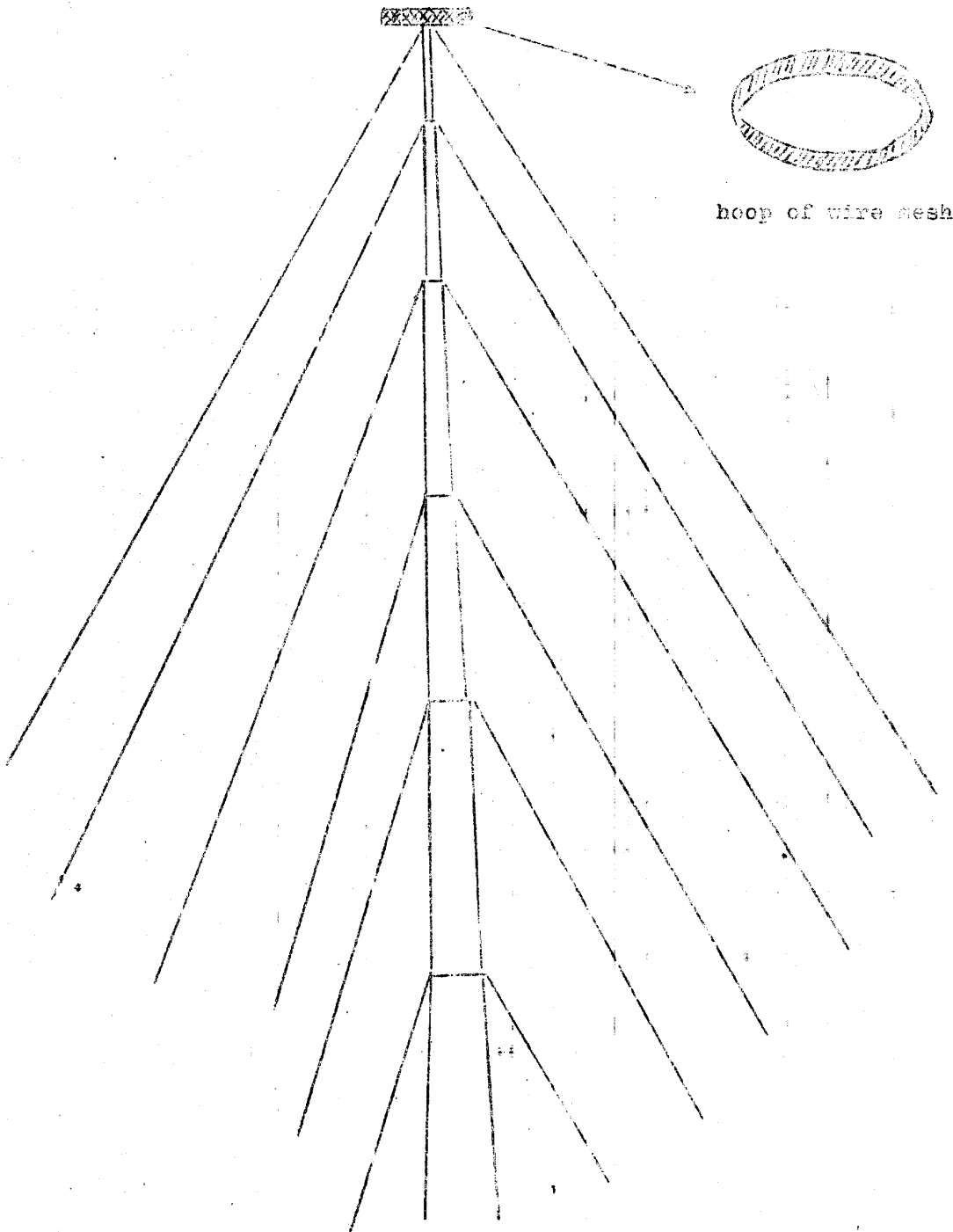
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SECURITY INFORMATION

ANNEX

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Radio Installation Observed at Merseburg Airfield



Mast 25 meters high

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